



READERS



# Emperor Penguins



DEBORAH LOCK



## A Note to Parents

DK READERS is a compelling program for beginning readers, designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Dr. Linda Gambrell, Distinguished Professor of Education at Clemson University. Dr. Gambrell has served as President of the National Reading Conference, the College Reading Association, and the International Reading Association.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-color photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series. Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

**Pre-level 1:** Learning to read

**Level 1:** Beginning to read

**Level 2:** Beginning to read alone

**Level 3:** Reading alone

**Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines, and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!







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**Series Editor** Deborah Lock  
**U.S. Editor** Shannon Beatty  
**Designer** Jemma Westing  
**Production Editor** Sean Daly  
**Picture Researcher** Rob Nunn  
**Jacket Designer** Natalie Godwin

**Reading Consultant**  
Linda Gambrell, Ph.D.

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SpecialSales@dk.com

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# Emperor Penguins

Written by Deborah Lock



DK Publishing

Brrr!

It is January, and the sun glints on  
the icy landscape of Antarctica.

On the edges of the ice,

Emperor penguins look out to sea.



## Antarctica

Antarctica is the southern-most continent. It is a huge area of land covered in ice and snow. It is so cold that the ocean around it freezes for some of the year, making it even bigger.



They are the tallest and heaviest of all penguins.

Their thick layers of shiny, waterproof feathers keep them warm and dry.





Slide! Splash!

Penguins are birds,  
but they cannot fly.

Instead, they are great swimmers.

Their wings are flat and stiff  
like flippers.

They dive in search of fish,  
squid, and krill to eat.







Watch out!

Leopard seals lurk under  
the edges of the ice  
ready to ambush them.

With a speedy leap onto  
the ice, the penguins  
are safe again.



At the end of March, the penguins  
begin their journey inland.

They are well fed since they will  
not return to the ocean to eat  
for a long time.

They waddle across the ice,  
one after the other in a line.





## Tobogganing

Penguins not only waddle, but they also slide across the ice, using their flippers and feet to push their bodies along.



They have a long way to go to get to their nesting area on the firm, thick ice.









Emperor penguins gather together in colonies.

There could be more than 500,000 penguins in each colony.

It is a noisy place to be because they all sing to each other.

A male penguin tries to impress a female one with his voice.

If she is impressed, she will follow the male around and stay with him.



In the middle of May, the mom  
lays one large pear-shaped egg.  
She is tired and hungry.  
She shuffles close to the dad  
and very carefully passes the egg  
onto his feet.  
The egg must not touch  
the freezing ice.



He covers the egg with  
his thick, warm layers  
of feathers.

The mom starts  
out again on  
the long journey  
back to the  
icy ocean.





All is quiet at the colony.

It is June, which is wintertime  
in Antarctica.

The temperature drops to below  
-76°F (-60°C) and the icy winds  
whip around the penguins.





The dads huddle together in  
a large group to keep warm.  
The ones on the outside shuffle  
slowly around the edge.  
They take turns to be in  
the middle and on the outside.



For one month, there is  
total darkness.

The sky is lit up with the colorful  
streaks of the Southern Lights.



## Southern Lights

The Aurora Australis, or Southern Lights, is an amazing light show in the sky. The light is made by electrical particles from the Sun entering the Earth's atmosphere and colliding with the air.



Each dad balances his egg on top of his feet, keeping it warm.

From time to time, the dad turns the egg very carefully,

so that each part gets a chance to be the farthest away from the freezing ice.







It is August, and the sun begins to shine for a few hours each day. The young chicks start to hatch out of their eggs.



They are hungry and call for food.  
The dads have not eaten  
for more than 100 days and  
they are hungry, too.  
When will the moms return?



After nine weeks away, the moms appear at last.

During the winter, they have eaten well and then traveled the very long way back to the colony.



## Dedicated parents

Adult penguins feed their chicks by bringing back up the food they swallow. Fish can be kept fresh in their stomachs for several days. Some parts of the food become a paste or a rich oil after a while.



Each dad passes his baby chick over to its mom.

He needs to be quick since the freezing ice will kill the chick within two minutes.

The chick can have a good meal at last from its mom.





The colony is a noisy place  
once again.

The dads leave and it's now  
the moms' turn to care for  
their fluffy young chicks.





## Dangers

The young chicks face many dangers. They could die from the cold or from hunger. They could also be attacked by Southern Giant Petrels.



As they get bigger, the chicks start to waddle around and huddle together for warmth. Then it's time for their moms to leave again to get more food. The chicks are left alone for the first time.



The dads return from  
their journey to the ocean  
and back.

But how will they each find  
their own chick?



The colony is very noisy as the hungry chicks call out for their dads.

Each dad calls too and then listens out for his own chick's call.

It may take hours wandering among the thousands of chicks for a dad to find his baby chick.







The moms and dads shuttle back and forth to the ocean for food for themselves and their chicks. As the sun shines longer each day, the thin ice melts and the journey to the ocean gets shorter and shorter.

By November, the ocean is only a short distance away from the penguin colony.

Each new family can spend more  
time together.



The chicks are almost as big as their parents now.

Their gray, downy feathers begin to fall out and new shiny waterproof feathers form.

This is called molting.





## Molting

During December, adult penguins also molt. They cannot swim until their new shiny waterproof feathers have grown.



Their moms and dads leave them for the last time to go and feed. The chicks will soon be ready to leave the colony, too.



*An adult's waterproof feathers*

It is January, and the sun shines  
all day, everyday.

There is no darkness.

For the first time, the young  
penguins shuffle across  
the shiny ice sheets.



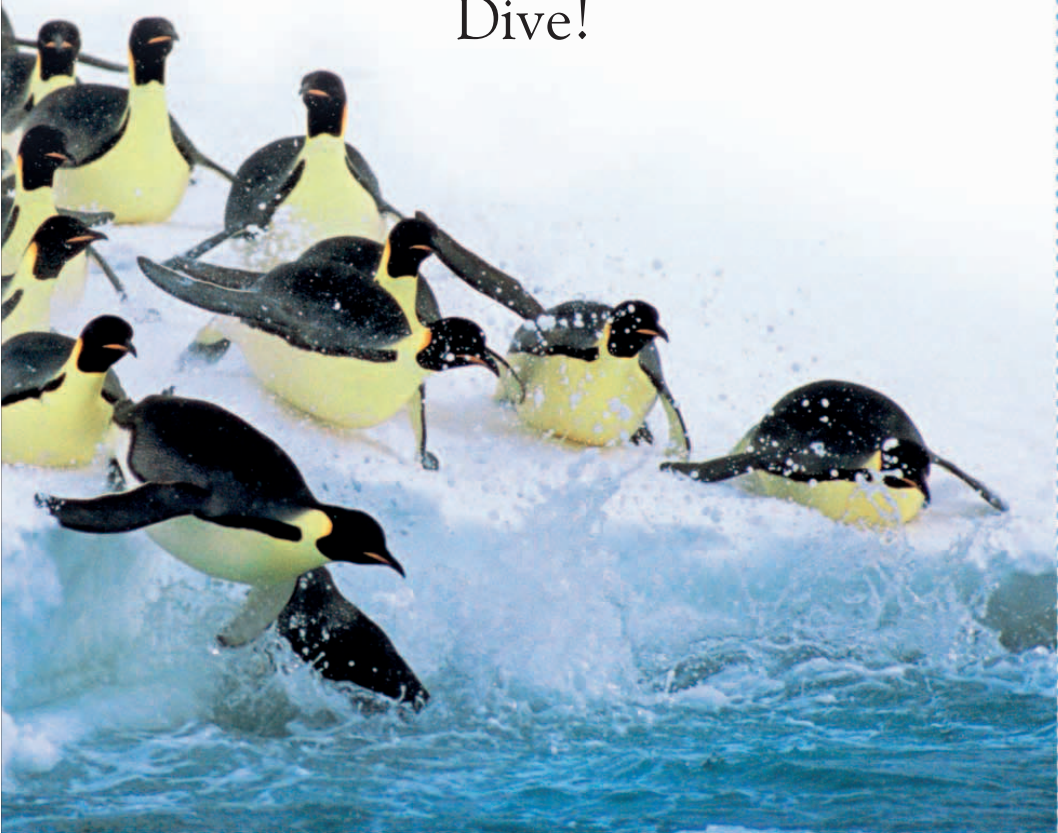
They head for the shimmering  
blue ocean.

They are hungry and eager for  
their first dip into the icy ocean  
to catch food for themselves.

Slide!

Splash!

Dive!





# Penguin facts

There are 17 different types of penguin. They all live in the southern half of the world, but some prefer warmer climates than others. The most common types are African penguins that live on the southern coast of Africa and Humboldt penguins that live on the western coast of South America.



Adelie penguins are the smallest penguins that live in Antarctica. Their black and white colored markings make them look as if they are wearing tuxedos.

Chinstrap penguins live in Antarctica and on the Southern Islands nearby. They have a black band of feathers under their chin that looks like a strap.



Macaroni penguins live on the islands around Antarctica. They have colorful yellow feathers on top of their heads.